



#### NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY RAB EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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# Restoration Advisory Board Newsletter

Dear RAB members and others with interest, at our August meeting, Mr. Charles Mortensen provided an overview of the basewide groundwater investigation conducted at Port Hueneme. The results show that there are no true plumes at Hueneme except the contained MTBE plume. Groundwater contamination detected below the designated IR sites is minimal but requires further investigation at Sites 9, 14, 20, and 2 other monitoring well locations. At the November 7 meeting, Mike Gonzales, Southwest Division IR Program Manager will discuss schedules and budget for work at Hueneme and Mugu during the coming year.

## Mugu

### **Site 24....**

Phase II, the aerobic phase, of the bioremediation pilot involving the injection of methane and oxygen continues to show excellent results. Groundwater sampling for solvent and vinyl chloride (a degradation byproduct) occurs every week. The levels of vinyl chloride have been reduced from 700 parts per billion to 100 parts per billion since this phase began in June. The goal is to reach 5 parts per billion, which would eventually allow safe use of the site for office workers. The added benefit of this method is its relatively low cost. Phase II will continue through December of this year.

### **Site 11, the Lagoon...**

The Ecological Risk Assessment sampling, completed in June, will result in a draft report in November. This is slightly behind schedule. The results and recommendations will also draw on some sampling done in 1997. The sampling in June came at a very opportune time because of the four-year and continuing drought conditions, which strictly minimizes the potential effects of off-site contaminants from storm water runoff.

### **Site 6...**

You may recall that contractual issues plagued this site at our last meeting. These have since been resolved, allowing equipment identical to that at Site 24 to be installed during the month of September and continuing this month. The system should be operational by November 1. Contamination at this site is the same as at Site 24, however the site is twice as deep and twice as wide. Still, contamination remains confined to the semi-perched aquifer and poses no threat to drinking water sources.

### **Other news...**

The Department of Defense is inventorying old ranges for the purpose of including them in the IRP when and where appropriate. The results of the inventory will also help determine the priority of each range in the cleanup Risk Ranking Evaluation Model (RREM). Ranges at Mugu and Hueneme were inventoried in January, 2000 with a follow-up survey in February 2002. The Mugu site has 5 ranges currently undergoing a preliminary investigation; Hueneme has 3 ranges. One range actually was closed and is classified as a formally used defense site and is under management with the U.S. Army, the remaining two are ranked low since neither are impacting the environment.

## HUENEME

### Site #12B ...

Another 400 cubic yards of PCB contaminated soil was removed from this site. Recall from previous reports that the original contractor reached their contract limit both in capacity, that is, the amount of material they can remove, as well as the contracting time period. Both of these limits were met before they were able to remove all the contamination – our original estimate of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) contaminated soil was low. This resulted in some delays but finally a new construction firm was awarded to continue and finalize the work. All the open work was backfilled with clean fill material and then an asphalt patch was placed to match the surrounding asphalt. We, unfortunately, were unable to get all of the contaminated soil since the contamination is also present below an adjacent building at the site. The PCB contaminated soil located below the building will remain in place. The site will remain in this status unless the building is demolished. At that time, we will determine what additional efforts will be required to close the site.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) expressed concern regarding whether or not any PCBs had been leached into the underlying aquifer. An On-Scene Coordinator report will be published at the end of October that will detail all aspects of the soil removal project. The report will be forwarded to the regional water board for review; some additional work may be required by the water board to confirm or deny the presence of PCBs in the aquifer.

### Site #20 ...

This site has been quiet for some time due to attention being given to other sites that required more immediate attention. As a review, IRP Site #20 is located on the northwest section of the base, immediately east of West Road as shown in Figure 1. The site contains various hydrocarbon products that originated from three underground tank that stored diesel fuel and waste oil.

We completed a draft engineering evaluation and

